

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Green Seal partners with SEIU 32BJ on custodian COVID-19 training

Initiative supports safety and effectiveness of members of the largest property service workers union in the U.S.

Washington, DC -- The nation's largest union of property service workers has partnered with the nation's leading authority on healthy and effective cleaning and facility care on a comprehensive COVID-19 training course available to tens of thousands of frontline custodians.

The SEIU 32BJ COVID-19 custodian digital training course, endorsed by Green Seal for accuracy and health and environmental impact, arms building service workers with training to protect themselves while maintaining safe, healthy building environments during the pandemic.

Nationwide, building service workers provide a frontline defense against infectious diseases such as COVID-19 in homes, workplaces, offices, schools, shopping areas and public spaces. Lack of training on proper cleaning and disinfection practices, appropriate cleaning products and equipment, and use of personal protective equipment can expose workers and building occupants to unsafe levels of hazardous chemicals while failing to protect them from COVID-19.

SEIU 32BJ's Thomas Shortman Training, Scholarship and Safety Fund created a comprehensive COVID-19 custodian digital training course for its members that covers everything from the characteristics of airborne infectious diseases and bloodborne pathogens to safe and effective COVID-19 cleaning and disinfecting procedures, proper use of personal protective equipment and guarding against workplace injuries.

"Essential building service workers have been on the front lines during this pandemic, putting their health on the line to protect Americans – in some cases, without enough training, equipment or support," said SEIU 32BJ President Kyle Bragg. "Our members take great pride in their professionalism and public service. This valuable training course arms workers with information they need to advocate for healthy building environments and to protect themselves on the job as they do the essential work of protecting everyone else."

The 32BJ Training Fund is a joint labor-management partnership that offers training to eligible participants at no cost. The fund is supported by contributions negotiated between 32BJ SEIU and participating employers, with a mission to train every participant to grow to the next level and continually raise the standards of the industry.

"The COVID-19 crisis has amplified the vital role of the front-line workers who safeguard the places where we live, work and learn," said Doug Gatlin, CEO of Green Seal. "Custodial workers without proper support were already significantly more likely to suffer injuries and respiratory damage than workers in other fields – and their health risks are exponentially more severe amid this pandemic. Green Seal is proud to support SEIU's crucial training resources for the building service workers who show up every day to keep our spaces healthy and our families safe."

The nation's premier non-profit ecolabelling organization and a recognized authority on cleaning for health, Green Seal last month publicly released [Guidelines for Safer COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfection](#) that spell out effective and responsible cleaning practices for occupant health and safety during the pandemic.

With more than 30,000 Green Seal certified products used in America's buildings, schools and homes, Green Seal is a global leader in product health and environmental certifications. In addition, thousands of offices, schools and colleges follow the best practice guidelines of Green Seal's commercial cleaning leadership standard – GS-42 – which sets strict requirements for safe and effective cleaning and disinfecting practices and rigorous training requirements.

ABOUT 32BJ SEIU

With more than 175,000 members, SEIU 32BJ is the largest union of property service workers in the U.S. SEIU 32BJ is united to raise standards at work and improve conditions in our communities so that one day "working poor" will be a contradiction in terms. With members in 12 states from Massachusetts to Kentucky and Florida, and Washington, DC, primarily in the Northeast, SEIU 32BJ members work as janitors, property maintenance workers, doormen, security officers, window cleaners, building engineers, airport, school and food service workers. Members work for private employers, the public sector, and companies receiving government contracts. They work in office, apartment, and government buildings; airports and shopping malls; public schools, colleges, and universities; stadiums, theaters, museums, and country clubs. More information can be found at <http://www.seiu32bj.org/>

ABOUT GREEN SEAL, INC.

Green Seal® is a global nonprofit organization with a mission to transform the economy for a healthier, greener world. Since 1989, Green Seal has applied rigorous standards for health, environmental sustainability and product performance to its certification programs to empower better purchasing decisions. Green Seal has certified thousands of products, services and spaces from hundreds of leading companies including 3M, Ecolab, Georgia-Pacific, Hilton, Westin, Marriott and Staples, and is specified by countless schools, government agencies, businesses and institutions. Today, the Green Seal certification mark is a universal symbol that a product or service meets the highest benchmark of health and environmental leadership. Visit GreenSeal.org or connect with Green Seal on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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